Haverhill

WEEKLY NEWS

Thursday, December 30, 2010

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We wish all our readers and advertisers a Happy New Year

£50k cash quest to upgrade park

BY LEANNE EHREN

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

A GRANT of £50,000 is being sought to spruce up a park saved by residents.

Aeroplane Park, on Haverhill's Chalkstone estate, has been the focus of a consultation carried out by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, after concern about anti-social behaviour.

More than 70 per cent of residents surveyed on the estate said they wanted the park to remain open and now a new group – Friends of Aeroplane Park – has worked with the council's parks service to submit a grant to revamp the area.

The parks service has completed a funding application for about £50,000 to the Big Lottery's Changing Spaces fund, which if successful, will pay for lighting, new surfacing works and equipment.

Alison Snape, chairwoman of Friends of Aeroplane Park, said the group had been set up to "enhance the park and create a place to benefit residents and the community as a whole".

She told the Weekly News: "The bid for funding is broken down for various items, including lighting, which will shine away from residents' houses onto the park, planting materials and more play equipment.

■ Turn to Page 3



Caring community: last year, villagers in Kedington rallied round to help parents Sarah and Tom Long adapt their home to care for disabled son Alfie Work is now under way on his new bedroom which will feature special equipment and sensory lights. Alfie is pictured with dad Tom and mum Sarah, along with sister Evie. See full story Page 4

> Pictures: David Johnson 702275

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Police seize drugs

THREE men have been charged with drugs and proceeds of crime offences after police stopped a car in Haverhill. Officers stopped a vehicle in Withersfield Road on Thursday December 23 and seized a quantity of drugs and cash.

Three men – Asad Ahmed, 23, of Howard Avenue in Slough, Maninder Singh, 18, of Tamar Way in Slough, and Choudhray Rafiq, 23, of Ditton Road in Slough – were charged with possession of ketamine with intent to supply, possession of criminal property.

All three were taken into police custody and appeared before Bury Magistrates on December 24, where they were remanded in custody until today.

Food taken from home

HUNGRY thieves broke into a house in Haverhill and stole food and cigarettes. The thieves smashed a window of the house in High Street between 5.30pm on Tuesday and 9.45am yesterday. Anybody with information about the burglary should contact Pc Cheryl Claydon at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Festive thieves strike

A STEREO, digital camera and tobacco has been stolen from a house in Haverhill

The theft occurred in Wellington Terrace between 3pm and 7pm on Boxing Day. Anybody with information about the offence should contact Pc Jason Thomas at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

Stolen car set on fire

A BURNT-out car has been found in a field.

The yellow Rover Metro was stolen from Mildenhall Place in Haverhill between 3pm on Christmas Eve and 8am the following day, and was later found after having been set on fire in a field off School Lane.

Anybody with information should contact Pc Matthew Dale at Haverhill Police on (01284) 774100.



Winners: Herbert Retail's purchasing manager Gary Welch, centre left and HR director Tracey Roach, centre right, are flanked by Nick Barker, of JAM Recruitment, left, and EEF south east regional director Jim Davison, right.

Company wins safety accolade

A WEIGHING machine company has won a prestigious award for its management of health and safety.

Herbert Retail, in Rookwood Way, Haverhill, was successful at the recent EEF (The Manufacturers' Organisation) South East of England award ceremony. The company was presented with the highly commended award for innovative people practices. The entry was based around the way in which Herbert Retail has fostered a "team approach" to managing health and safety within the business.

Tracey Roach, Herbert Retail's HR director, said: "This is a hugely prestigious award with 318 competing companies, of which many are PLCs, and is a real testament to the excellent performance around health and safety management and delivery within the business. It is a great accolade which recognises a great team effort. The south east is a huge area, covering Kings Lynn to the New Forest, and so to win the award is something that Herbert Retail is justifiably proud of."

Schools chief targets improvement in skills



RV I FANNE FHREN

Fmail: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

IMPROVING the skills of Suffolk's children and young people is a "top priority", an Ofsted report has said.

The annual assessment carried out by the organisation, which reviews all services provided by Suffolk County Council, has found Suffolk's children's services to be performing well.

The report, published this month said: "Improving the attainment of Suffolk's children and young people is the local authority's top priority, and it is now providing stronger and more assertive leadership in driving up standards in its schools."

Ofsted's findings said the large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected are "good or better" and that safeguarding services are "well led and managed, and have good capacity to improve."

Pledge follows Ofsted's annual report into county education

However, the report highlights the need to reduce the number of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, training or work. The county council said it recognises this as a challenge and will work with partners to improve the number of young people who continue their learning after 16.

The report also said: "Risks from budgetary pressures are well recognised, and there is commitment from elected members to ensure safeguarding and targeted services continue to be prioritised and protected as far as possible."

Cllr Graham Newman, portfolio holder for children, schools and young people's services said: "Ofsted's assessment reflects the hard work and dedication of staff in the county."

ment reflects the hard work and dedication of staff in the county. "The report identifies educational attainment, on the whole, remains lower than the national average.

"This is another clear indication that we must continue with the school organisational review to remove barriers from the education system, so young people can achieve the very best. This remains our top priority.

"Ofsted recognises, through our targeted school improvement strategy, we are supporting those schools most in need of improvement.

"We will continue to do this to ensure young people can become successful members of society.

"The report also identifies that that joint commissioning arrangements are effective and that good value for money is achieved. We will continue to work hard to ensure children services across Suffolk meet the needs of young people and their families."

Adults caught out in under-age sales trap

BY RAYMOND BROWN

Fmail: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

ADULTS willing to buy alcohol and cigarettes for under-18s in Haverhill were found out in a sting operation.

Trading standards officers teamed up with police and eight adults were approached by volunteer youngsters aged 15 and 16 to buy alcohol.

One bought alcohol for them. Eleven adults were then approached by the youngsters to buy cigarettes, and one adult agreed.

James Garrett, fair trading officer, said: "Tackling proxy purchasing is vital if we are to stop alcohol getting into the hands of youngsters – those who buy alcohol on behalf of children need to know they are committing a serious offence, which has consequences for the entire community.

"Off-licences must be aware that proxy purchasing is illegal and must ensure they are doing all they can to prevent it and fulfil their duties as a responsible straige." responsible retailer.

Licensing inspector Becky Kidd-Stanton said: "Police and trading standards have been working together for some time to ensure licensed premises do not sell alcohol to underage people – I am delighted that we are now able to carry out partnership proxy sales operations.

"A great deal of alcohol consumed by young people is bought by others, whether they are the parents of the children, older friends or just a person approached in the street.

"Buying alcohol for underage people is irresponsible and illegal – if you are caught supplying alcohol to children you could receive anything from a fixed penalty notice

"Our joint operations will be carried out with the primary aim of education - we want people to realise the dangers they are putting young people in by giving them alcohol, and to think again.

"However, we will deal firmly with anyone caught making a proxy sale and, if appropriate, they will receive a fine or be prosecuted."

Trading standards have organised classes which will run in the new year to increase traders' knowledge about age-restricted products.



Joint effort: representatives of the groups involved in the Challenge of

of management roles

MORE than 30 representatives from local businesses, public services and the armed forces supported a week of workshops activities for a group of students.

The Year 12 students at Samuel Ward Academy in Haverhill took part in a Challenge of Management event, which makes them aware of the skills necessary to be a good manager and also the challenges surrounding the work of a

The week began at Chilford Hall, Linton, giving the students an impressive first taste of a conference environment. The students then spent two days work

shadowing a manager in the workplace and a day brushing up their presentation skills. The culmination was held at Ardex UK Ltd, where small groups of students presented their experiences of the week to a panel of employers.

Employers were impressed by the quality of the students' work and their involvement in each activity. One said: "What a super group of young men and ladies shortly to be released into the world of university and the workplace."

The Academy thanked managers who gave up time to support the students during the week

County celebrates recycling record

RECYCLING in Suffolk has reached an all-time

The Suffolk Waste Partnership annual report shows an increase in the county's recycling rate to 50.6 per cent, which is the first time it has recycled more than half its household waste.

It also showed a reduction of more than 41,000 tonnes in the amount of waste residents sent to landfill.

The annual report is based on activity from March last year to April this year, and also shows progress towards long term alternatives to landfilling waste. Cllr Roy Barker, chair-

man of the Suffolk Waste Partnership, said: "An annual report is a great way in which residents can learn more about the many different waste projects happening across our county. It is

also testament to the fantastic efforts our residents have shown this year.
"None of the ach-

ievements shown in the report would have been possible without every person taking the time to recycle their old plastic bottles, take a glass jar to the bottle bank or compost their kitchen or garden wastes.

"These efforts are making a big difference and we thank everyone for their continued supp-

Cllr Lisa Chambers, Suffolk County Council's portfolio holder for waste said: "I am delighted with efforts that have been made by Suffolk's residents to do their bit to help the environment.

"Let's make our new year resolution to recycle and reduce our waste even more in 2011."

Funds bid for park

From Page 1

"Our aim is to protect the park, enhance and improve it. While the funding is very beneficial we're looking to engage the community to improve the park over time.

"This is a long-term project, and if we do not get the funding we will keep on going."

A council spokeswoman said it had been working with the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to tackle anti-social behav-

She added that the council never considered closing Aeroplane Park and has worked closely with the SNT to find solutions to the problems raised.

Haverhill Town Council clerk Gordon Mussett said: 'We're supporting the application for funding.

"We will continue to work with the residents and other organisations to provide diversionary provide diversionary activities for young people in the town. However, the provision for activities will of course be affected by the decision of Suffolk County Council to close the youth

The Friends of Aeroplane Park will know in the spring if their application for funding has been succ-

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'Thank you for helping Alfie'

The family of a severely disabled boy have thanked villagers for their "overwhelming" support which has helped them adapt their home to meet his needs.

Villagers in Kedington raised £22,582.88 to build new facilities for Alfie Long, who at just eight months old was diagnosed with cryptogenic infantile spasms, resulting in

Villagers rallied round last year to help parents Sarah and Tom Long adapt their home to care for disabled son Alfie. As work gets under way, LIZZIE PORTER spoke to them about the support they received

constant seizures. The 8-yearold is reliant on his parents for all aspects of his care, including feeding, bathing and dressing him. He is confined to a wheelchair but he does enjoy

rolling on the floor. Last year, the Weekly News reported that parents Sarah and Tim Long were fundraising to cover the £50,000 installation cost of special equipment and sensory lights at their home in Westward Deals. Disability Support

They had given up hope of making the changes needed to care for Alfie as he got older.

Allowance could only cover

around half the total.

But thanks to the support of their community, the family now has builders on site, and Alfie's new bedroom is halfway to completion.

In 2009, the couple were approached by the then landlords of the Barnardiston

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Happy days: Alfie with parents Tom and Sarah Long and sister Evie. Left, building work has started on his Pictures: David Johnson 702275/702278.

Arms pub in Kedington, and Brian and Dionne Walford and Alfie's cause was made their charity of the year.

This week, Mrs Long told the Weekly News: "We were obviously absolutely chuffed when they came to us, except that as parents we felt that we should provide for Alfie. But we realised that we couldn't afford to without others' help. Kedington has got that real community feel and we were overwhelmed by how much people wanted to support us. Lots of people came to us and said they wanted to help raise money."

The pub held multiple events to raise money, including a Caribbean night and a Hallowe'en disco. A photo diary of the fundraising is on display at the Barnardiston Arms.

Dionne Walford said: "They are such a lovely family and really deserved it. Everybody rallied round and there was a brilliant atmosphere at all the events

Alfie is looking forward to moving into his new room. Mrs Long added: "He is quite a laid back chappie. We have several appointments at Great Ormond Street Hospital to

explore his options. But any treatment would have to make a massive difference to his quality of life to make the surgery worth it. It is so lovely that people still come and ask how he is doing.

The rest of the family are progressing well. The couple also have a daughter, Evie, who suffers from Costello syndrome, a genetic disorder that affects development. Mrs Long said: "She turned three last week and is a happy little thing. She's a tough cookie. It's nice to be able to share experiences - like Christmas together as a family."



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Bargain hunt boosts trade

A MAJORITY of Haverhill's High Street shops are reporting a good start to the annual sales.

Following the bitter blow of snow that hit the town the week-end before Christmas, retailers are hoping the easing weather and attractive offers will draw out the crowds – and their cash.

David Pipe, owner of High Street family business M J Pipe, said yesterday was the first day of their sale and trade was "brisk".

He said: "We were very busy in the lead-up to Christmas, until the snow came the weekend before. That definitely slowed things

"Now we have various items in the sale and we have been very busy. The VAT increase will probably be stumped up by most small retailers and I don't think people are rushing too much to buy before it.

"For us it's not worth re-branding something that was £200 to £205, so we'll just swallow the increase.'

Sales of up to 70 per cent were on offer in clothes stores, and electrical shops were hoping people would purchase bigger items ahead of the VAT rise on Tuesday.

Haverhill Town Council clerk Gordon Mussett said shops hoped trade would pick up now the weather had eased off.

He said: "Wednesday was the first day the arts centre has been open and I am told by my colleagues that the town has been

"We're hopeful they had a good sale period in the run up to Christmas and an even healthier period after Christmas.'

Hair Bar, a hairdressers in the High Street, have also been rushed off their feet. Owner Freddy Pfiffner said: "It's been very very busy in the lead up to Christmas and now ahead of the New Year.

"It slowed down for two or three days when we had the snow but our regulars still made it to us."

A number of retail chains on the High Street have also said the town was busy with bargain hunters since Boxing Day



Honours evening: Melanie Lea group manager with Justin Lee Collins.

Star treatment for slimmers

SLIMMERS from Haverhill received celebrity attention for their accomplishments at an awards

Melanie Lea, who manages Slimming World groups in Haverhill, was "thrilled" to meet comedian Justin Lee Collins at the event in

Justin Lee Collins hosted the event, which honoured successful slimmers. He said: "What's great is it's about ordinary people who've achieved something truly extraordinary.

"Having met Melanie I think people in Haverhill are incredibly lucky to have so many great Slimming World groups on their doorstep."

Ms Lea said: "At this time of year lots of people will be pledging to slim down and shape up and we'd love anyone who wants to make their New Year's resolution a reality to come join us at any of the Slimming World groups in Haverhill.

"Even if they've struggled to stick to resolutions in the past, there's no need to be put off.

Crime stays low during Christmas

CRIME in Haverhill remained "stable" over the Christmas holiday period, police said.

Officers recorded 74 crimes between Christmas Eve and midnight on Tuesday - five crimes fewer than the same period last year.

The 74 events noted included calls received through 999 and the general non-emergency switchboard number, as well as events generated by officers on patrol, station clerks and other police force requests.

Over the holiday this year there were five domestic incidents, four

Fmail: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

assaults, two burglaries, two cases of criminal damage and one of drink driving.

Last year there were eight dom-estic incidents, seven assaults, six cases of criminal damage, one drink driving and one burglary.

Police said it is not vet comparable to look at the total number of crimes for the period as there may be some reports to come and also crimes reported over longer periods, such as sexual abuse, which may show on last year's list

but not yet on this year's.

A police spokeswoman said: "At the moment, 2010 has generally lower crime figures for this period, although there could still be some incidents not yet reported to us.

"However, in both years crime levels are low. So it appears that people in general have taken note of our messages to help them stay safe over Christmas, which is

pleasing.

"There will again be extra patrols over the New Year period and we would remind people to drink sensibly and stick with friends when enjoying a night out over New Year.



The Haverhill Weekly News is your truly local newspaper for the town and surrounding villages. We pride ourselves on producing publications for the community and about the community and aim to provide the very best service for readers and advertisers alike.

At the same time, we are constantly looking to improve our title and are always happy to hear from you with suggestions and comments.

If you have any feedback for us then please contact the relevant person or people listed below.

MEET THE TEAM

MANAGING DIRECTOR Graham Ayres 01223 434434

EDITOR Daniel Newell

01223 434325 daniel.newell@cambridge-news.co.uk

REPORTER Jo Deeks

01440 703891 jo.deeks@cambridge-news.co.uk

ADVERTISING Caroline Mifsud area sales manager

Louise Cohen media consultant

Melissa Adams media consultant

01440 703891

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WHERE TO FIND US

4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF 01440 703891; Fax 01440 761342

email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk advertising@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Cambridge: Winship Road, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6PP 01223 434434

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MEMORIES



our archives, shows a cheque presentation in Haverhill. Do you recognise anyone in the picture or know what the event was? Do you know where and when it was taken?

Send your answers to: Memories Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF by Tuesday morning, or email editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

Last week's Minimones principly apin promipted Justine Sullivan (nee Brooks) to write to us and say: "I just got this picture sent to me from a friend. Wow – such a long time ago! I am the third lady from the left and I think we were at Samuel Ward, in the

woodshop room.
"All the people in this picture took graphic design but I have no idea what we were doing with the plants. This must of been back in 1990/1991."
Very close, Justine – the photo was actúally taken in February, 1990.

It's been a year of change for all of us

West Suffolk MP Matthew Hancock looks back at 2010 and shares his thoughts on the year

THIS year was truly an extraordinary 12 months in politics, and a year of great change.

We have seen a new govern-ment, our first coalition government in 60 years, and big changes put in place to make our schools more independent, our benefits system fairer and, above all, to tackle our nation's debts.

Add to that here in Suffolk the big debate over the future of local services, getting the go-ahead for the dualling of the A11, and it's been a big year.

Despite the many challenges, I have found my first seven months as your MP extremely rewarding. Most of all I enjoy spending time meeting constituents to try to help to solve problems you have. Each day I am contacted by a

constituent who I can help, whether by tackling the govern ment bureaucracy or dealing with other problems.

So I'm looking forward optimistically to 2011. All the Suffolk MPs are campaigning together for better broadband and I am working in Parliament to promote your interests.

I would like to wish you all a happy new year – and please do get in touch if I can be of any assistance to you or your families.

We're working to get the best for our town

Haverhill mayor Elaine McManus reflects on a busy year in office and looks to the many challenges that lie ahead in 2011

GREETINGS to all residents, businesses and visitors to Haverhill.

During my time a mayor in 2010, I visited many towns across Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk representing Haverhill and I am delighted to say that mayors from other towns in Suffolk and surrounding counties have visited Haverhill on numerous occasions.

It has been a very busy year and a very enjoyable one for myself and Paul, as we serve you all. Thank you for the honour of being able to be your mayor for the second year in succession

We are all facing difficult financial times and this coming year will be particularly difficult as the councils look at different ways of working and providing the services to our town.

I want to reassure you all that all



your town councillors are there to represent your views and to get the best outcome we can for this town. but we need to hear what you think about what is going on, so that we can do the best we can on your behalf.

I would encourage you all to attend the council meetings or the surgeries that various councillors hold in the town. If that is not possible, then call us or email us so that we can be well informed and influential on what is best for this town.

I wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy new year.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should arrive by noon on the Monday before publication. Full name and address must be supplied and details will

be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Letters should be no longer than 250 words and may be edited.

Please email your letters to

editorial@haverhillweekly news.co.uk

Alternatively write to: Letters to the Editor, Haverhill Weekly News, 4 Queen Street, Haverhill, CB9 9EF



Christmas decorations & Gift Department clearance prior to refurbishment

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Boutique final Kellie, of Allington Walk, Haverhill, said: "We entered him in the competition and he was lucky the top 24 babies and had the chance to go to the finals. There were more than 30,000 children entered into the competition so I was extremely proud. He didn't win the competition but a lot of people have said it was great to see that a little boy from our town actually made it to the finals out of more than 30,000

"He got loads of goodies that day and was treated like a star, it was amazing. He also recently won a prize at The Gallery in Haverhill for his age category and has been contacted by a few modelling agencies, who would like him to go for some photo test shoots.

children.



Staff team raise £5k for charity

STAFF members at a building society are celebrating their achievements after a year of fundraising, volunteering and campaigning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Saffron Building Society, which has a branch in Haverhill, teamed up, together with departments from the society's head office, to raise awareness of Macmillan's work - and to really put the 'fun' into 'fundraising'.

The team raised more than £5,000 for Macmillan with a host of events including cycle rides, mud baths, busking and coffee mornings, and these funds help Macmillan's work across the county.

As Charity Champions, the Macmillan fundraising team had their total boosted a further £300 by the society. The society also used a Macmillan Christmas e-card to celebrate the achievement of their winners.

Lyn Crowe, Essex Fund-Lyn Crowe, Essex Fund-raising manager for Mac-millan said: "We have been really impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity shown by Saffron's charity teams.

"They have thrown themselves in to supporting Macmillan with a terrific sense of fun. The £5,000 they have raised for us will make a huge difference to the support we are able to provide.

"I'd like to thank and congratulate the staff at Saffron for all that they have achieved, and also thank Saffron's customers, who have been very generous in getting behind the staff and making the events so worthwhile.

Community donations flood into foodbank

BY JO DEEKS

Email: editorial@haverhillweeklvnews.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS at a foodbank have been overwhelmed by the generous support it has received from the community.

Since it opened its doors just over two years ago, the Haverhill Foodbank has received huge donations of 11.5 tons of food and handed out around 10 tons.

Despite the recession, donations have continued to flood in and over the Christmas period a total of 60 boxes of groceries have been handed

Henry Wilson, who manages the foodbank which was set up by Haverhill Churches Working Together, said: "We



Grand collection: Henry Wilson, of Haverhill Foodbank.

have only got about 10 boxes left, which we will be giving

"We have had lots of donations, like the people at Cart-wheels/On Track, who had a

Secret Santa to give to us instead of giving each other presents. We have had very generous support from the town and much further afield.

"I have been overwhelmed

by the generosity of people ever since we started. I had almost expected some negative comments, but the vast majority of people have just been so positive.

"It is often about helping people through a rough patch and we often get those people coming back and donating. We get some fantastic stories of people who have found a job and got their lives back on

The foodbank will hold the next of its regular food collection sessions at Tesco in ection sessions at lesco in February, but items of non-perishable food, as well as nappies or feminine products, can be taken to the Next Door Café near Haverhill Methodist Church in Camps Road or St Mary's Church in Haverhill.

Anyone wanting to donate or support the foodbank can call (01440) 712950 or 268003.

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Spotlight falls on community events that shaped our lives





A YOUNG woman was seriously hurt after her car smashed into a home next to a busy bus stop. The family returned to find a big hole in the side of their house in Fisher Close, Haverhill.

Convicted burglar Taz Bashir goes on the run after being granted a day's leave from Highpoint

Enraged mother of three, Lisa O'Grady, of Vange Close, Haverhill, accuses St Edmundsbury District Council of refusing to clear a plague of rats from her garden shed.

Two camels braved chilly Suffolk weather to help promote a charity trek in the Middle East that raised money for St Nicholas Hospice Care in Bury St Edmunds.

FEBRUARY

A blaze at Vion's Little Wratting bacon factory, which took 30 firemen to put out, gutted a threestorey building and caused thousands of pounds of damage.

Neighbours were shocked when 90-year- old Betty Robson died after falling out of her first floor bedroom window in Hundon. The death was treated as unexplained but not suspicious

Haverhill man Paul

As 2010 collects its hat and coat and heads for the door, RUTH HALKON takes a look at noteable events in and around Haverhill during the past 12 months in the first part of our review of the

> programme. Primary school pupils

parents during an

made themselves.

improve the lives of

Partnership for

demonstrated the gory art of mummification to their

Egyptian day. Children

Farm Primary School wore

costumes which they had

Haverhill residents. Nine

local groups were awarded

part of a £75,000 windfall by the Haverhill

Cash was handed out to

from Haverhill's Place



French was ordered to pay back £6,000 after police arrested him for drug dealing. French, a member of a £1 million drugs gang, is currently serving a fouryear prison sentence.

The first eviction notices were served to tenants who were hit by a cut in housing benefits. St Edmundsbury Borough Council's decision to give benefits to pay for one

room, instead of two. meant that many tenants were unable to pay their

Motorist Bill Perry was given a parking fine after displaying his blue badge upside down.

The future of the Haverhill Show faced an uncertain future unless more people came forward to volunteer for the committee or help in other ways. The show has been running for 50 years and last year raised £2,000 for learning disabilities charity, LAMPH.

Brave police officers were honoured after disarming a man who was wielding a rifle and saved a young woman from falling 30ft to her death.

A woman too ill to go on honeymoon was looking forward to starting a family after a lifesaving operation. Myra Stevenson donated a kidney to her daughter, Carly Loveday, of Kedington, who suffered

from IgA Nephropathy. community projects. The story featured on BBC Eleanor Gamble, 5, may TV's Inside Out

have become the youngest person to score a hole in one. She achieved the feat on an 86-yard hole at Cambridge Lakes Golf Course. Dad David, of West Wratting, said those who witnessed the remarkable feat were left "speechless"

A Haverhill family sued travel company First Choice after they were hit by a stomach bug during their dream holiday in Turkey. Holidaymakers were allegedly made ill by contaminated food and water at the Holiday Village



YOUR Cambridge News



Every week throughout **January**



Don't miss Monday's **Cambridge News** for full details



Collect our tokens and help local good causes benefit from grant funding



Bright future: Myra Stevenson donated a kidney to her daughter, Carly Loveday, of Kedington who suffered from IgA Nephropathy. The story featured on BBC TV's *Inside Out*.

A headteacher and a businessman were two of many Haverhill people who made epic journeys to return home after their flights were cancelled due to volcanic ash from Iceland.

Plans to convert a historic factory site, Chauntry Mill, into shops, restaurants and homes were approved, as long as the listed buildings were preserved. The redevelopment of the old Gurteens factory site will play a huge part in the regeneration of Haverhill town centre.

Haverhill's mayor, Elaine McManus, was shocked by reports that a man was robbed at knife point while he was walking down a footpath at Chainery

Two men responsible for a string of burglaries and thefts in Haverhill are now finally behind bars, thanks to the efforts of a brave

woman who managed to detain one of them until police arrived.

Conservative Matthew Hancock swept to victory in the General Election. The 31-year-old former chief of staff to George Osbourne polled more than half of the votes cast to take over the seat from stalwart Richard Spring, who stood down.

Concerns were raised about the safety of a children's playground and of users of public toilets on Haverhill Recreation Ground, which will no longer be manned. The toilets have previously won national awards for cleanliness yet parents fear that, if unmanned, they could potentially pose a risk to children playing nearby.

Extra police patrols wearing cameras made sure that school children were not making a nuisance of themselves or drinking underage. The head-cameras took footage of incidents to aid in identifying offenders.

Year 11 students from Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College turned out in their finest for their Leavers' Ball.

A couple "bled dry" three bank accounts belonging to the husband's elderly father Haverhill couple John and Carol Apps drew out £14,000 against their father's wishes, a court was

Natalie King, who is terrified of heights, performed a parachute jump to raise money for her niece, Toni Cant, who is currently paralysed after a car crash.

Prisoner James Whitlock went on the run after conning staff of HMP Edmunds Hill into believing that he was another inmate who was due for early release. Staff did not realise their mistake until he had already walked out.



Glamorous: Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College Year 11 students held their Leavers' Ball at Chilford Hall in May.



Next week: don't miss the second part of our look back to the big events that made the news in and around Haverhill during the last half of 2010.

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Summit to call for ideas on transport

BY CHRIS HAVERGAL

Fmail: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

COMMUNITIES will be given more power at a summit being held to solve Cambridgeshire's transport problems.

The event – the first of its kind – will consider how grassroots groups can help to draw up local solutions in an era of tightened purse strings.

Bus subsidies are expected to be reduced in Cambridgeshire and it has been suggested, for example, that community transport groups could be supported to replace some commercial services.

The conference might also clear the way for a rollout of schemes such as car sharing and vehicle pooling, if they win support, and would have a particular focus on the needs of vulnerable residents and rural areas.

The event is being organised by Cambridgeshire County Council, which wants to draw up a strategy to help it support organisations which have their own ideas and funding for transport schemes.

Cllr Mac McGuire, its deputy leader and highways boss, said he wanted a "frank and open conversation", free of party politics.



Highways boss: Mac McGuire wants free and open discussion.

He said: "We have to make every one of our limited pennies count and to do that we must work together."

The council has already asked people for their views on reducing transport expenditure as part of £161 million of cuts, with options including scrapping bus subsidies and cutting road maintenance spending by one-fifth.

But the ability of community transport groups to step into the breach left by reduced public funding has been questioned by opposition Liberal Democrats, who warned some villages would end up being cut off.

Cllr McGuire said: "Local authorities do not have a statutory duty to run buses but that should not stop us from trying to find ways to provide local solutions to encourage and improve public transport links.

"This is vital in rural areas and for our most vulnerable members of society.

"We are consulting about funding and priorities but we have to recognise the current financial situation faced by all councils means there is little money to invest in services that are not a statutory duty."

Interested groups will be contacted with more information about the summit, a date for which is yet to be set, in the new year.

Businesses, local authorities and health chiefs will also be invited.

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Your property search just got easier

Burglars jailed after thefts at rural shops

FOUR men responsible for a string of burglaries across Suffolk and Essex have been locked up for a total of 12 years.

The four - from Essex and south-east London were sentenced at Ipswich Crown Court for the offences.

The investigation and prosecution was led by the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU), which was formed in July to tackle serious and organised crime across East Anglia.

A number of burglaries were carried out at various shops across the two counties between October 2009 and August this year, including Sible Hedingham in Essex.

Duncan Rowland, a 22year-old student from Charminster Road in Lewisham, was arrested by Suffolk officers in Ipswich in May. Martin Whalley, a

Fmail: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

46-year-old labourer from Pegasus Way in Braintree was arrested by Essex road policing officers in Marks Tey in August as was Peter Fabri, a 31-year-old builder from Bramdean Crescent in Lewisham.

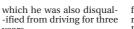
Andrew Last, a 33-yearold demolition worker from Waverley Road in Eltham, was also arrested by Essex road policing officers in Marks Tey.

Whalley pleaded guilty to 13 counts of burglary, while the other three men each pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary at Ipswich Crown Court on Friday, December 10.

At Ipswich Crown Court on Tuesday, December 21, Duncan Rowland was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with a further six months to serve after also pleading guilty to dangerous driving for



Behind bars: clockwise from left, Peter Fabri, Andrew Last, Martin Whalley and Duncan Rowland have been locked up after a string of burglaries across Suffolk and Essex.



Whalley was sentenced to six years' imprisonment while Peter Fabri and Andrew Last were both sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Senior investigating officer, Suffolk's DI Martin Wright, said: "This is a

fantastic result for not only residents in Suffolk and Essex, but also for ERSOU.

"We've put paid to this gang who caused misery to small villages and communities for several months.

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Panto dame is Aladdin's beating heart

HIS year's celebrated Cambridge Arts Theatre pantomime takes us on a journey to exotic Peking, where the Emperor is determined to find a rich husband for his daughter.

Defying her father, as all good heroines should, the

spirited, romantic
Princess PoppyPoo applies
instead to work
as a mangle
handler in
Widow

Jennifer Shelton joins panto regulars for a journey to exotic Peking for a night of raucous, festive fun following Aladdin

Twankey's Laundrette – knickers washed while you wait – where she falls in love with the Widow's poor but plucky son, Aladdin.

Yet when Aladdin is sent on a quest to retrieve a mystical lamp for his questionable long-lost uncle, things take a turn, and Aladdin finds himself trapped within the dark, creepy cave, fearing he'll never see his true love again.

A vibrant ensemble of characters, costumes and song-and-dance numbers help bring the story alive in true panto style, with Matt Crosby as Wishee Washee and Brad Fitt as Widow Twankey injecting some well-received local humour and contemporary references into proceedings.

As expected, Aladdin is packed with every kind of humour, from the clownish to the more sophisticated asides for the mums and dads. While most jokes hit their mark, some of Wishee Washee's opening one-liners

fall a little flat (although his breathless, non-stop plot summaries are a wonder to behold), and James Hirst as the villainous Abanazer doesn't quite have the charisma to pull off all his numbers.

But the real beating heart of the show is Brad Fitt as Widow Twankey, who commands the auditorium with natural, effortless ease.

On press night, it's an unsuspecting John in row C who is picked as Twankey's internet love-interest, receiving winks and nods throughout the evening; while the hilarious 'Washateria' scene with Twankey and Wishee Washee reminded me never to undervalue the power of slapstick.

Julie Buckfield, a familiar face for Cambridge panto regulars, is excellent in the role of the brave and cheery thigh-slapping hero, and Danielle Eller makes a triumphant return as the excitable Princess, bringing
youthful
energy and sweetness to
the role. Meanwhile, amongst the
chorus of adorable Panto Babes
are surely the panto stars of the
future.
It's impossible not to be

charmed by this joyful, hilarious helping of Christmas fun – Aladdin is a guaranteed hit for young and old alike.

■ Aladdin is running at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, until January 16. Tickets are £10 - £30 from the box office on (01223) 503333, visit www. cambridgearts theatre.com

t the ese ous or

PANTO FAVOURITE: Widow Twankey, played by Bradd Fitt, and left, Julie Buckfield as Aladdin.

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12.35





6.00 Breakfast Saturday Kitchen Live 11.30 Football Focus. 12.20 BBC News.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message

12.40 Doctor Who. Part one of two. FII M: Bee Movie (2007) 3.00 FILM: WALL.E (2008).

4.30 Final Score.

5.15 BBC News. FILM: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008). Action adventure.

The Manicians New series EastEnders. Desperate to see her new baby. Kat talks a nurse into letting her go home, but a heartbreaking sight awaits at

Come Fly with Me. FlyLo passengers are delayed on a journey to Malaga when there is a wing malfunction on their flight. Comedy, with Matt Lucas and David Walliams

9.30 Live at the Apollo. Lenny Henry hosts

10.00 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws

Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the first Premier League clashes of

The Football League Show 11.50

BBC2

CBeebies: Pingu. 6.05 Bob the Builder Snowed Under: The Bobblesberg Winter Games. 7.00 CBBC: Basil and Barney's Game Show. 7.30 The Legend of Dick & Dom. 8.00 Da Dick and Dom Dairies. 8.30 Sorry, I've Got No Head. 8.55 Diddy Dick & Dom. 9.00 The Legend 6.00 of Dick & Dom. 9.30 Da Dick and Dom Dairies. 10.00 Sorry I've Got No Head. 10.30 The Legend of Dick & Dom. 10.55 OOglies.

New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2011.

12.50 FILM: The War Bride (2001).

2 30 FII M: The Horse Whisnerer (1998) Drama The Archbishop of Canterbury's 5.10

New Year Message The Indian Doctor. Last in the 5.15

6.00 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Martin Adams v Tony West are among the firstround matches.

7.25 Dad's Army.

7.55 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1976. The duo present a festive edition of the comedy with quests including Elton John and Des O'Connoi Eric and Ernie.

10.30 Fric and Frnie - Behind the Scenes. Victoria Wood narrates this documentary charting the duo's early years.

11.30 FILM: Rising Damp (1980).

CITY: The Fluffy Club 6 00 7.40 FILM: The NeverEnding Story (1984) Fantasy adventure starring Barret Oliver.

9.25 The Planet's Funniest

Coronation Street. Omnibus. 12.10 ITV News and Weather.

Downton Abbey. Costume drama set in an Edwardiar country house in 1912, following the lives of the Crawley family and the estate's servants. Starring Maggie Smith and Hugh Bonneville

Downton Abbey. Everyone is anxious at the arrival of Matthew Crawley, the heir presumptive.

ITV News and Weather. 4.50 FILM: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) The teenage wizard is alarmed to learn a dangerous fugitive sorcerer is searching for him

8 30 Take Me Out

FILM: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008). Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel Kristen Rell and Russell Brand

10.45 ITV News and Weather 11.00 FILM: Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008). Premiere

12.10 FILM: American Pie: The Wedding (2003) Comedy

CHANNEL 4

Sali Mali. 6.10 The Hoobs. 6.35 World Sport. 7.00 GT Academy. 7.25 Freesports on 4. 7.55 The Morning Line.

T4: Friends. 9.20 Friends. 9.50 T4 Stars of 2010. 12.20 Glee. 8 50

1.25 Channel 4 Racing, Live coverage from Cheltenham and Musselburgh. Come Dine with Me.

3 55 Come Dine with Me 4.25 Come Dine with Me.

5.00 Come Dine with Me 5.30 Come Dine with Me.

6 00 Channel 4 News 6.15 4thought.tv. 6 20 FII M. Independence Day (1996). Sci-fi adventure, starring

Vill Smith Father Ted Night An 9 00 introduction to a series of programmes dedicated to

Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathew's clerical comedy. Unintelligent Design. Father Ted creators Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathews talk about their sources of inspiration for the comedy, including popular TV programmes and events in rea life. Part of Father Ted Night.

9.35 Father Ted. An episode of the comedy with the Craggy Isla

Small. Far Away – The World of 10.05 Father Ted. Documentary following Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathews, who created the comedy. 11.15 Father Ted

five

0

Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Fireman Sam. 6.40 Rupert 6.00 Bear. 6.50 Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. 7.05 The WotWots. 7.25 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy, 8.00 Hana's Helpline, 8.10 Little Princess. 8.25 The Adventure Friend Corky. 8.45 Play! 8.55 Olivia. 9.10 The Mr Men Show 9.30 George Shrinks.

Zoo Days.

FILM: High Society (1956). Musical romantic comedy, with 10.20 Musical romantic comedy, wi Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly.

12 25 Titanic

FILM: The Searchers (1956). 3.55 John Ford's Western, starring John Wayne.

6.15 Five News.

CSI: Miami 6.20

7.10 CSI: Miami. Guest starring Sean P Diddy' Combs.

CSI: Miami.

CSI: NY. One of the CSIs is gunned down while escorting media mogul Robert Dunbrook's son to testify against his father in court Guest starring Nelly

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Sara is used as bait to trap ar elusive serial killer

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation A triple murder case from Catherine's rookie years returns



Primeval ITV, New Year's Day, 7.30pm



Fanous and Fearless



CSI: Miami five, New Year's Day, 6.20pm

≜BBC1

Breakfast Match of the Day. Highlights of the first Premier League clashes of 2011.

Eric and Ernie

BBC2, New Year's Day, 9pm

FILM: Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (2003). Animated adventure

BBC News Sport Relief 2010 – The Final Score. A celebration of last

year's appeal, which raised more than £44million. **Doctor Who.** Part two of two. The Master's plans burtle out of control, and the Earth
appears to be on the brink of destruction - forcing the Doctor to contemplate the

ultimate sacrifice EastEnders. Omnibus.

Halcyon River Diaries Songs of Praise.

BBC News. Countryfil

Antiques Roadshow. Casualty. Jordan is late for an important meeting and decides to drive himself despite being hanned but his actions have fatal consequences.

BBC News

Gavin & Stacey. Gavin starts his iob in Cardiff and Smithy has to come to terms with losing his best friend, but Neil's christening offers an opportunity for everyone to

FILM: Norbit (2007)

BBC2

CBeebies: Pingu. 6.05 Bob the Builder: Built to be Wild. 7.05 CBBC: Basil and Barney's Game Show. 7.30 Sam & Mark's Guide to Dodging 6.00 Disaster. 8.00 Deadly 60. 8.30 Barney's Barrier Reef. 8.55

Something for the Weekend 10.00 11 30 Escape to the Country

> Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the afternoon session on day two at the Lakeside Country Club in

4 45 Flog It! From Oldham.

Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Featuring Stuart Kellett v Darryl Fitton and Scott Mitchell v Jan Dekker.

The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1977. Another chance to see the duo's 1977 festive special, featuring their star-studded performance of There Is Nothing Like a Dame

8 00 Oz and Hugh Baise the Bar 9.00 Arctic with Bruce Parry.

Athletic v Newcastle United 11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Robert Webb guest hosts

CITY: The Fluffy Club 6 00 7.25

9 25 FILM: Curious George (2006) ted adventure 11.00 FILM: Beethoven's 5th (2003). Family comedy, starring Daveigh Chase and John

12.45 You've Been Framed! 1.15 ITV News and Weather

Downton Abbey. Mary is 1.30 smitten by handsome housequest Kemal Pamuk Downton Abbey. The fair arrives in the village and Mrs

Hughes finds herself the centre of speculation Downton Abbey. As the village prepares for the annual flower show, Isobel and Violet are in conflict.

4.30 Anglia News and Weather. ITV News and Weather. 4.45

FILM: The Incredible Hulk (2008). Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton, Tim Roth, Liv Tyler and William Hurt.

7.00 Primeval

3.30

5.00

The Cube: Celebrity Special. Agatha Christie's Marple, The amateur sleuth investigates when a poisoned cocktail appears to herald a series of attempts on the life of a Hollywood actress. Julia

ITV News and Weather. 11.00 The Comedy Annual 2010.

Sali Mali 6 05 The Treacle 6 00 People. 6.15 The Hoobs. 6.40 The Hoobs.

7.05 Athletics.

Bob Hoskins.

4.25 Deal or No Deal. Channel 4 News.

Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges Famous and Fearless. New

tomorrow Alan Carr: Chatty Man. The host

Lee Evans XL Tour. The comedian performs at Cardiff International Arena in front of

Music on 4: Russian Standard Originals Presents. Kelis

Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. 6.25 Fireman Sam. 6.40 Rupert Bear. 6.50 Miss Spider's Sunny 6 00 Patch Friends, 7.00 Mio Mao. 7.05 The WotWots. 7.20 Chiro. 7.25 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. 7.45 Make Way for Noddy. 8.00 Hana's Helpline, 8.10 Little Princess. 8.25 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. 8.45 Family! 9.00 Olivia. 9.15 The Mr Men Show, 9.30 George Shrinks. 10.00 Shake!:

10.35

11 10

Days (1956), Oscar-winning rind adventure

FILM: Agent Cody Banks 2: 2.55 Destination London (2004).

5.00

6.00

Paul Newman. Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2010. Countdown of the year's best water-cooler stories, featuring Cheryl Cole and Gamu-gate George Michael

CHANNEL 4

T4: Friends. 8.30 Friends. 9.05 The Album Chart Show Introduces Jessie J. 9.25 Hollyoaks. 12.05 Glee. 1.05 The Simpsons. 1.35 The

FILM: Son of the Mask (2004). Comedy sequel, starring Jam Kennedy, Alan Cumming and

The Simpsons

5.35 4thought.tv. FILM: Iron Man (2008). Superhero adventure, with

series. Fight celebrities compete in extreme sports, including monster-truck racing and BMX riding. Chris Evans and Clare Balding present. Continues

is joined by Matt Lucas, Dame Edna Everage and McFly

more than 4,000 fans, as part of

five

iCarly. True Jackson, VP.

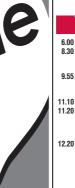
Zoo Days. FILM: Around the World in 80

Family comedy adventure 4 50 Five News Eddie Stobart: Trucks and

FILM: The Towering Inferno (1974). Disaster movie, starring

getting locked up, the end of Big Brother and Robbie's return to Take That. (R) (T) 6105482

12.00 Russell and Katy Get Married



WWW. myidealdate

CAMBRIDGE!

Deadly 60. 9.25 Barney's Latin

Bargain Hunt Famous Finds 12.30 1.00

Frimley Green

Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Chelsea v Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge and Wigan

11.30 The Man Who Made Eric & Ernie. A profile of TV produce



MONDA

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. Wanted Down Under. Homes Under the Hammer Saints and Scroungers Bargain Hunt. Regional News Cash in the Celebrity Attic

With Nick Hewer from The Keeping Up Appearances FILM: Three Men and a Little Lady (1990).

4 10 Doctor Who The Time Lord encounters a Scrooge-like

5.15 Weakest Link Look East. Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of

Loaf and Death. Wallace opens his own bakery. 7.00 Jimmy's Food Factory. Last in

Nigel Slater's New Year Suppers. Conclusion

EastEnders. Kat and Alfie find the strength to return to the hospital and say goodbye to their baby, while Jack grows concerned for Ronnie's emotional state

Celebrity Mastermind. John Humphrys quizzes Robert Webb, Helen Skelton, Stephen Mangan and Clive Sinclair.

Silent Witness. New series. Part one of two. Regional News

A Question of Sport. The Football League Show Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixture

BBC₂

CBeebies: Postman Pat. 6.25 Postman Pat. 6.50 Octonauts. 7.00 CBBC: Animals at Work. 7.25 Newsround. 7.30 Da Dick and Dom Dairies. 8.00 Mission: 2110. 8.30 CBeebies: LazyTown 8 55 Numberiacks 9 10 The Koala Brothers 9 25 Sesame Tree. 9.40 Big & Small. 9.55 Guess with Jess. 10.05 Postman Pat. 10.20 Pingu. 10.25 64 Zoo Lane. 10.40 Waybuloo. 11.00 In the Night Garden. 11.30 Animal

Onen Gardens Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Day three at the Lakeside Country Club.

Final Score. 5.15 Antiques Road Trip 6.00 Eagheads.

Great British Railway Journeys Live Darts: BDO World coverage from the Lakeside

Country Club in Frimley Green Stargazing Live. New series. In a three-day event, Brian Cox is accompanied on an exploration of the night skies by Dara O Briain, and Jonathan Ross is taught about astronomy by Mark Thompson Continues tomorrow The Bear Family and Me. New

series. Continues tomorrow. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Michelle Williams, Goldie, Professor Green and Miles Jupp ioin team captains Noel Fielding and Phill Jupitus. Comedian

Frankie Boyle hosts. FILM: Smart People (2008) Comedy drama, starring Dennis

6.00 Daybreak. Britain Does the Funniest

The Unforgettable Hattie 12.30 ITV News and Weather.

1.15 Anglia News and Weather. **Downton Abbey.** Sybil's political interests lead her into

danger. 2.30 Downton Abbey. Robert makes a shocking announcement.

comedy drama, starring Martin 5.00 The Chase, New series, Quiz

Doc Martin First enisode of the

4 00

show, hosted by Bradley Walsh You've Been Framed!

Anglia Tonight. ITV News and Weather.

Emmerdale Fric tells Val the truth about Flizabeth's death and Adam ends his relationship with Scarlett.

Coronation Street. The police question Steve about the assault on Tracy, wanting to know why he handed custody of Amy to her without a fight. The Lakes. New series. Comedian Rory McGrath

narrates. Coronation Street. Sally turns to Tyrone for support after taking her frustrations out on

Sophie and Sian. Above Suspicion: Deadly 10.00

ITV News at Ten and Weather FILM: The Matrix Reloaded (2003). Sci-fi thriller sequel. starring Keanu Reeves and

CHANNEL 4

Sali Mali. 6.05 The Treacle People. 6.20 The Hoobs. 6.45 The Hoobs. 7.10 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybo Loves Raymond. 8.05 Frasier. 8.30 Friends. 9.00 Friends. 9.25 Famous and Fearless 11 30 Glee

127 Hours: T4 Movie Special. FILM: Three Men and a Baby (1987). Comedy.

Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions 3 00

3.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions

Deal or No Deal. Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions.

5.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me Extra Portions

6.00 The Simpsons 6.30 Hollvoaks.

7.00 Channel 4 News

Relocation: Phil Down Under. Phil Spencer helps a couple set up home near Melbourne. 7.05

Famous and Fearless Chris Evans and Clare Balding present the extreme sports show where Kelly Holmes, Kacey Ainsworth, Sarah Jayne Dunn and Jenny Frost take on Jonah Lomu, Rufus Hound, Charley Boorman and Sam Branson to raise money for their chosen charities The contestants face further challenges as they compete in activities including monster-truck racing and demolition derby. Continues tomorrow.

Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2010. 11.35 4thought.tv.

Alan Carr: Chatty Man. The comedian is joined by radio DJ Chris Evans and the Expendables

five

0

Milkshake!: Thomas & Friends. 6.10 Roary the Racing Car. 6.20 The Adventures of Bottle Corky. 6.35 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, 6,40 Ruperl Rear 6.50 Castle Farm 6.55 Peppa Pig. 7.00 Little Princess. 7.15 The Mr Men Show. 7.30 Thomas & Friends. 7.45 Noddy in Toyland. 8.00 Fifi and the Riowertots. 8.15 Peppa Pig. 8.25 Peppa Pig. 8.30 Roary the Racing Car. 8.40 Hana's Helpline. 8.50 The WotWots. 9 00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9 15 K9 Ice Road Truckers.

10.50 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation First episode of the crime drama

FILM: Our Man in Havana (1960). Satirical spy drama.

FILM: Ryan's Daughter (1970). Epic romantic wartime drama. Cowboy Builders. A family living

in a half-finished shell. FILM: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985). Comedy sequel, starring Steve Guttenberg and Bubba Smith.

FILM: Austin Powers: The Spy Who S***** d Me (1999). Comedy sequel, starring Mike Myers in multiple roles alongside Heather Graham, Rob Lowe, Robert Wagner, Michael York, Seth Green and Verne Troyer.

FILM: Until Death (2007). Action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Selina Giles. Including Five News Update.

America's Toughest Prisons SuperCasino. Brian Sewell's Grand Tour

Cinema Listings

All times are PM unless

HAVERHILL CINEWORLD 0871 200 2000 Times from Fri. Dec 31-Thu. Jan

The King's Speech (12A): Sun The Next Three Days (12A): Wed-Gulliver's Travels 3D(PG): Fri-Mon 11.30am, 4, 6.30, 9; Tues-Thu 6.30, 9

Gulliver's Travels (PG): Fri-Mon 1.45: Tues-Thu 4 Love & Other Drugs (15): Fri 12noon, 2.30, 5.15, 7.45; Sat-Mon 1, 3.30, 6, 8.45; Tues-Thu 330 6 845 Meet The Parents: Little Fockers (12A): Fri 1.30, 3.45, 6, 8.15; Sat-Mon 1.30, 4.15, 7, 9.15;

Tues-Thu 7, 9.15 Tron Legacy 3D (PG): Fri-Mon 2 (subtitles Mon), 5 (subtitles Sun), 8; Tues-Thu 5, 8

The Chronicles Of Narnia – The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader 3D (PG): Fri-Mon 11.15am The Chronicles Of Namia – The Voyage Of The Dawn Treader (PG): Fri-Mon 12.30; Tues 4.30 Megamind (PG): Fri-Mon 11.15am (subtitles Sun); Tues Thu 3.45

Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (12A): Fri 3.30, 7; Sat 3.45,7.45; Sun 3, 8.40; Mon 3.45, 7.45; Tues 7.45 A Christmas Carol (PG): Sat 10 15am

CAMBRIDGE CINEWORLD 0871 200 2000 Times from Fri. Dec 31-Thu. Jan 127 Hours (15): Wed-Thu 11.50am, 2.10, 4.30, 6.50, 9.10 Gulliver's Travels 3D (PG): Fri 3, 5.30, 8; Sat-Thu 11am, 4, 6.30, 9

Gulliver's Travels (PG): Fri 12.30; Sat-Thu 1.30 Love & Other Drugs (15): Fri 11.30am, 2, 4.30, 7.15; Sat-Thu 12.40, 3.20, 6, 8.40

The Way Back (12A): Fri 10.20am.1.20. 4.20.7.20: Sat Thu 11.20am, 2.20, 5.20, 8.20 Meet The Parents: Little Fockers (12A): Fri 12.10, 2.40, 5.10. 7.40; Sat-Thu 11.10am, 1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9.10

Arthur And The Great Adventure (PG): Fri 12.15, 2.45; Sat-Tues 11.15am, 1.45, 4.15 Tron Legacy 3D (PG): Fri 11.15am, 2.05, 4.40, 7.20; Sat-Thu 11.30am, 2.30 (subtitles

Sun), 5.30 (subtitles Mon). 8.30 Burlesque (12A): Fri 4.50.7.30: Sat-Tues 6.50, 9.30 The Chronicles Of Namia - The

Voyage Of The Dawn Treader 3D (PG): Fri 11am,1.50,4.45,7.30; Sat-Tues 12noon, 3, 5.45, 8.30; Wed-Thu 12noon, 3, 5.45 The Chronicles Of Namia - The

Voyage Of The Dawn Treader (PG): Fri 2.30; Sat-Tues 4 The Tourist (12A): Fri 5.15,7.45; Sat 6.45, 9.15; Sun 9.15; Mon-Tues 6.45, 9.15; Wed-Thu 8.30 Megamind 3D (PG): Fri

Shrek Forever After (U): Sat

Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (12A): Fri 4,7; Sat-Thu 2.50, 5.50, 8.50 Shrek Forever After (U): Sat 11am The King's Speech (12A): Sun

10.30am,12.45

Menamind (PG): Fri 11 30am: Sat

1.45; Sun-Tues 11.30am, 1.45

Don't make survival a case of pot luck



by Hannah Stephenson

F YOU'RE one of those people who just has to look at a pot plant for its leaves to start wilting, perhaps it's time to consider whether you might be killing it with kindness.

So many of our favourites at this time of year, including poinsettias, forced bulbs and cyclamen, hate being overwatered or placed near radiators or in draughts.

A little thought about where you are going to place your plant can go a long way to making sure it survives.

Many festive plants, including indoor azaleas, pot chrysanthemums and cyclamen are virtually hardy and are happiest in a cool room such as a porch, cold hallway or in an unheated conservatory.

Most, apart from the azalea, can be watered once every few days, so that the compost doesn't dry out but isn't sodden

The azalea, however, can be watered



BEAUTIFUL BLOOM: favourite pot plants have little tolerance for being overwatered and placed in draughts or near radiators.

daily to keep the rootball moist. Stand it in a bowl of water for 20 minutes, then tip away the excess water.

Cineraria and calceolaria also prefer cool conditions, such as an enclosed porch. As they are annuals, they're better placed in an area you want to

brighten up, rather than risk placing a much-loved permanent specimen there.

Poinsettias come in other colours apart from red, including salmon pink and cream. They should thrive in bright filtered light, ideally in a bright living room, but don't put them in direct

What to do this week . .

Check that fuchsias packed in compost for the winter do not become completely dry and protect the crowns of hardy fuchsias outdoors with garden compost. Open greenhouse ventilators on

sunny days but close them early in the afternoon before the

temperature drops.

Check plants in the greenhouse,

sunshine or they may wilt, and all hate

draughts. Again, don't overwater them. Wait until the leaves show signs of wilting and then give the compost a good soak, but don't allow the plant to stand in

water for any length of time. Cyclamen, which come in a wide range of colours, like cool conditions and will flower longer at temperatures around 13-18C. Wait until the leaves just start to wilt before watering and always water from below, by standing in a deep saucer of water for a few minutes before allowing to drain.

Forced bulbs are popular, particularly hyacinths, whose fragrance can fill a room, as well as bright and cheery dwarf narcissi and bold, brassy

They are extremely easy to maintain indoors as you can just treat them like annuals and throw them away afterwards because, if they've been forced, they won't make much of an impact if you replant them in the garden.

If you've forced your own, as soon as the buds have grown and are about to show their real colour, bring them indoors. If you do it too early they may produce inferior flowers on short, stunted stems.

For me, among the best value-formoney houseplants which look elegant

in cold frames and under cloches to see if they need watering.

Check all crops in store and remove any which show signs of

Enrich soil with compost where beans are to be grown, if weather Use cloches to protect alpine plants from winter damage.

months of the year are orchids. Those who are under the impression that they are difficult should think again. Price has often been an issue, but in

recent years the cost of orchids has come down and in the new year there are likely to be special offers on spectacular ones.

Phalaenopsis, the moth orchid, can repeat-flower virtually all year, its arching spikes producing graceful

flowers in shades of pink and white. They need a steady temperature of around 16-21C (60-70F) and high humidity.

Mine thrive on my kitchen windowsill and I happen to have a kettle nearby, so am convinced that the steam from the kettle gives them as much humidity as they need, although you can stand the pot on a dish of damp pebbles to provide the necessary humidity.

You must never overwater orchids. Give them a good soak once a week from below, dunking them in a bowl of water for 20 minutes and then placing them on a draining board for the same amount of time so the excess moisture disperses. Hopefully, if you give your houseplants the care they need, they should be flowering well into the new

Property Services







Bradley Road, Thurlow £460,000 (OIEO)

A stunning and individual extended 17th Century detached cottage on the outskirts of Thurlow. This type of property is rarely available and must be viewed to fully appreicate the standard of the property.



Horsham Close £169,995

A well presented 2 bedroom bungalow on the Hanchett development on the Cambridge side of town.Acc. includes: Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden, Parking and Garage





Chaplains Close

£219,995

4 Bedroom Detached property in desirable location. Accommodation includes: Lounge, Diner, Kitchen, W.C, 4 Bedrooms, En-suite, Bathroom, Gardens, Parking and



A well presented 3 bedroom end of terrace home on the Cambridge side of town. Accommodation briefly comprises: Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Downstairs WC, 3 Bedrooms, ensuite to master. Bathroom & Gardens





This 4 bedroom detached property is in a quiet cul-de-sac location close to local schools and close to town. Spacious accommodation includes: Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Gardens





Downs Crescent

Well presented 3 Bedroom semi detached house. Accommodation comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gardens and Parking.





Eastern Avenue

An immaculate 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Cambridge side of town. Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Gardens. The property also benefits from a large driveway.





Horsham Close

A very well presented 2 bedroom end of terrace home on the popular Hanchett development. Acc. comprises: Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden, Parking and Garage.



Vetch Walk

£128.995

Well presented 3 Bedroom mid terrace home on the poular Chimswell Estate. Accommodation includes: Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs W.C, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Gardens



Mallow Walk

A well presented 3 bedroom midterrace ghome on the popular Chimswell development. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom





Glemsford Place £119,995 (OIEO)

A well presented 3 bedroom mid terrace home on the popular Chalkstone Estate. Accommodation comprises: W.C, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Rm, 3 Beds, Shower Rm and





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Vauxhall **VAT-busting** promotion

WITH a matter of days to go before the turn of the new year, Vauxhall has launched a launches its promotion that it claims could save thousands of pounds with a VAT-busting discount on almost all its new models.

Named 'Vauxhall Countdown', the offer represents a 20 per cent discount off the list price, before options, on a

range of Vauxhall's key models and is available on new cars until January 31.

For example, the Astra 1.4 (98bhp) Exclusiv model and the on-the-road price drops by more than £3,190. Choose the Agila range and savings start from £1.890, while buyers choosing the Corsa can save up to £3,400 off list price.

Toyota offers savings on Yaris of up to £1,700

TOYOTA is offering savings of up to £1,700 on selected Yaris models on orders placed before March 31,

According to the Japanese car maker, this means customers are receiving a free upgrade

from TR to the T Spirit model thanks to the discount, and includes both three and five-door bodystyles plus the full engine range of 1.0-litre 1.33-litre and the 1.4 D-4D

Also included in the offer

is free servicing for three financed through Access Tovota – Tovota Financial Services' PCP plan.

The Yaris, like all Toyota models, is also covered by Toyota's five-year/100,000mile new vehicle warranty.



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THE legendary Jeep Wrangler demonstrated its continued success as a serious off-roader after scooping another major honour - 4x4 of the Extreme Year. category.

The award comes comes specialist publication magazi magazine, whose panel of expert judges put a four-door version of the US off-roader at the top of a list of extremely capable competitors, including the Land Rover Defender and Lada Niva.

The judges praised the

Wrangler's awesome offroading capability, style, and equipment.

offers a all-round Wrangler cracking all-round package for the 4x4 buyer. The three-door version is best left to hardcore individualists, but the way-more-practical fivedoor version is definitely worth a closer look. says Hils Everitt, editor, 4x4 magazine.

"There's a choice of manual or auto, and equipment such as leather wrapped steering with cruise control, Uconnect Bluetooth and climate

year running, it's the allround package and value for money that means scores rivals to take our top spot. It's well known the world over, but still it's great to see the Jeep Wrangler being recognised by experts for being what it does best – extreme off-roading," says Nigel Land, director, Chrysler and Jeep in the UK. "There's lots more to come from Wrangler, which we are looking forward to showing our customers

With its 'go anywhere and do anything' Wrangler approach. unique combination of worldclass off-road driving, fun. evervdav convenience versatility.

Wrangler models are covered bv the Jeep comprehensive warranty scheme, which provides a threeyear/60,000 mile mechanical warranty, seven-year anti-corrosion warranty and one-year European roadside assistance.

The diesel-powered Wrangler (manual) returns 39.8mpg on the combined cycle and has a CO2 figure of 187 g/km. Prices start at £22,995 for the two-door Wrangler 2.8 CRD Sport.

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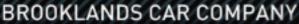
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04 AUDI TT 1.8 QUATTRO SILVER, 70743 MILES	£8,495	£7895	£600	56 RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DYNAMIC BLUE, 28111 MILES	£6,995	£6495	£500
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05 ALFA ROMEO 156 1.9 JTD RED, 63014 MILES	£5,995	£4995	£1000	52 MINI COOPER 1.6 S GREY, 38253 MILES	£6,995	£6295	£700
04 BMW 645 CI 4.4 CI AUTO BLACK, 60156 MILES	£14,495	£13695	£800	55 MINI COOPER 1.6 BLUE, 22372 MILES	£7,995	£7495	£500
56 BMW 318 2 CONVERTIBLE GREY, 39291 MILES	£10,995	£9995	£1000	56 RENAULT GRAND 1.4 SCENIC SILVER, 41145 MILES	£5,995	£5495	£500
03 HONDA ACCORD 2.4 VTEC GREY, 71098 MILES	£5,495	£4995	£500	07 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SW HDI GREY, 50127 MILES	£6,995	£6395	£600
04 FORD FUSION 1.6 2 SILVER, 80242 MILES	£3,995	£3495	£500	57 VOLVO C30 2 SE SPORT RED, 9880 MILES	£12,995	£11495	£1500
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03 FORD FUSION 1.6 2 BLACK, 57970 MILES	£3,695	£3395	£300	05 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 GLS WHITE, 41634 MILES	£5,995	£4995	£1000
08 CITROEN C2 1.4 CACHET BLUE, 31006 MILES	£5,995	£5495	£500	59 BMW 318 2 TOURING BLUE, 47392 MILES	£13,995	£12995	£1000
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53 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC BLUE, 49357 MILES	£4,495	£7775 £3995	£1000	07 SEAT LEON 2 FR BLACK, 28000 MILES	£7,775 £10,495	£9495	£1000 £1000
54 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC BLOE, 47337 MILES	£4,475	£3775	£500	58 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.5 GLX GREY, 16167 MILES	£7,495	£6995	£1000
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07902 873985

Citroen C8 2L 16V SX Auto

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Land Rover

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hardtop convertible, 07 reg'd, 20,000 miles, nanual, 3 door, black, FSH excellent condition, dual a/c, CD, 17" alloys plus more, full MoT and tax

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£10,500 07789 516483 01223 233738

Renault

Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique

2 door, 2003, 83k, A\C, Alloys, S/Roof, met black, FSH, MoT March, stereo,

£1,950 ono 07506 366322

Suzuki

07845 997605 Saffron Walden

Suzuki Grand Vitara 16v Sport

43,000, 2003, Black, petrol. 3 door, 1,600cc, metal running boards and spare wheel cover. Excellent condition. Must be seen.

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to view

Petrol, 2007, 15,775 miles, FSH, MOT to Oct 11, Tax to end May 11, A/C, 9 airbags, seat height adjustment, electric windows, CD/Radio. ectric windows, CD/Rad Ecellent condition, non smoking lady owner. In Cambridge

£5,350 07810 825062

Vauxhall



Vauxhall Astra 1.6. SXI 16V

06 reg'd, 5 door h/back, metallic blue, 41k, ABS, A\C. Alloys, CD, E/W, PAS, FSH, Fog lights, Remote Locking, Chrome sports padels and hrome sports pedals and k plates, Tax to April, Mo August. Excellent conditio

£4.950 ono 07801 932009



Vauxhall Astra 1.7 LIFE CDTI

Diesel, 2005, White, 53,000 miles, 5d manual, hatchback adjustable steering column/wheel, airbags, CD, E/FW, ABS, tax March 2011, MoT August 2011, FSH, nor

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Vauxhall



VAUXHALL **CORSA**

1.2 Petrol. 1997, Green, 84,000 miles, MoT and Tax Oct 2010, 3 door, good condition, sun roof

£900 07887 722954



Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 16V

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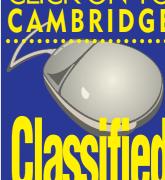
16k miles. Mint condition £14,750 ono

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T reg'd, 89,700 miles, red, ABS, A\C, Alarm, CD, E\W, H\Seats, Airbags, PAS, 12 mths MoT, FSH, lifetime tracker, sport and winter drive, clean and in good condition

07737 155554



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Vauxhall Omega 2.5 CDX 4 door saloon, Petrol, 1999, Silver, 97,000 miles, ABS, AlC Alarm, E/W, H/front Seats, mmobiliser, E/S/Roof, tax Feb MoT March, radio/ CD/ tape player, FSH, good condition T reg'd, 3 door, White, 98k MOT/TAX April 2011, one lady owner, service history. Good runner £995

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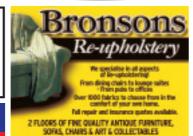
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MARIA 48, blonde hair, widow, likes walks, cinema, meals out, dancing, seeks N/S male 40's with GSOH for friendship, maybe more, Harlow, Tel 0905 436 6240 Box No:

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ANGIE 55, medium build, N/S, likes walks, coast, pub lunches, days out, music, seeks genuine, caring male for LTR. Suffolk. **Tel No: 0905 436** 6240 Box No: 352529

going gent of similar age for friendconversation and outings Norwich. Tel No: 0905 436 6240

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MARIANNE 38, attractive, young looking, GSOH, petite, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, mobile nurse, likes swimming, salsa, seeks male for friend-ship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 349973

MARIA young 48, 5ft 7ins, medium build, blonde high lighted hair, likes restaurants, pubs, music, walks, seeks attractive, sincere, honest, romantic male. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355067

LADY 36, seeks nice male, 20-39 for fun, maybe more, Northampton Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No:

STUNNING babe, long dark hair, tall, slim, long legs, likes travel, arts, meals out, seeks tall, charismatic guy, 50's for happy fun, maybe LTR. Must have GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 340939

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CARING widow, 60, likes books, music, days out, theatre, walks, meals out, seeks gent for loving relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 342239

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41YR old slim single mum. 5ft GSOH, caring, seeks special relationship with caring, warm-hearted, kind male, 35-45 who likes family life. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 249270 348789

CHRISTINE young 63, N/S, attractive, slightly overweight, seeks kind male. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box

61YRS young attractive female, seeks romantic, sensitive male for TLC, 50-65. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 339191

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MEN SEEKING

TERRY 67, likes cinema, travel, walks, meals out, caring, sensitive, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Peterborough. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 354949

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HONEST caring, genuine, romantic male, 41, seeks attractive female for love and lasting, happy relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355609

ATTRACTIVE 21yr old male, blond hair, blue eyes, likes nights in/out seeks attractive female for no strings fun. Corby. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355513

SINGLE male, 29, slim, 6ft, GSOH, no ties, OHAC, smoker, seeks dog loving female, 28-38 for fun and friendship. mavbe Wellingboro. **Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355439**

58YR old easygoing male, 5ft 5ins, solvent, own home, likes most things, seeks petite, caring female with GSOH for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box

CHARLIE kind, caring, 65, likes nights in/out, countryside, weekends away, seeks female with similar interests for companionship Bourne. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355155

MARTIN 40, 6ft, dark hair, green eyes, slim, outgoing, Gemini, seeks female, 35-40. Tel No: 0905 436 6240 Box No: 355115

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EEKLY NEWS SPORT

December 30, 2010 email: haverhillsport@cambridge-news.co.uk



>> Motorsport



Cook on boil for fast start in kart

AN impressive start to a fledgling karting career has given Evan Cook plenty to smile about.

The nine-year-old driver only took up the sport this year, but picked up two pieces of silverware from his first three races at the Red Lodge circuit near Newmarket. Racing in the novice Honda Cadet class, Haverhill-based Cook has taken to karting extremely well. setting a Cadet lap record as well as finishing ahead of older, more experienced drivers.

Proud dad Steve has looked on in wonder as his son has quickly got to grips with the circuit. "he's done really well there," he said.

"He's been starting races near the back of the field with the rest of the novices but has gone on to finish eighth. Racing seems to come quite naturally to him.'

Cook has been so impressive. Ryan Presley has recruited the youngster for his Red Lodge-based Taylor Made Racing Team. Having spotted potential from Cook's performances earlier in the year, Presley is keen to help him

Next year, Cook will face tougher competition as he will no longer be racing in the novice categories , but the Burn End School pupil appears well prepared for the challenges ahead.

"Evan told me that in some of the races he was holding back," said his father.

"He didn't want to make a mistake because he wanted to make sure he beat the other novices.

"But he said that next year he's ready to push it a bit more. Cook first became interested in karting 18 months ago after getting his first taste on an electric kart at the Ashton Kite Festival.

"He seemed very good at it, the way he was overtaking drivers who looked older and more experienced," said Cook snr.

"I said that if he was still interested I'd take him to a proper karting circuit when he's older. So I did, an he really enjoyed it.

"It's all down to him. I've told him that if he doesn't want to go we'll stop immediately.

"But he really wants to do it and he said he'll never lose interest.'

>> Football

Betts and Co keep fingers crossed . .

HAVERHILL Rovers joined the Christmas white-out, but are hoping they can start the new year with a game. The Bank Holiday Monday match against Hadleigh at the New Croft was frozen off, but after a gentle thaw, hopes are rising that the New Year Bank Holiday game at Debenham on Monday (noon) will get the thumbs up.

If so, it will be the first since the 3-0 win over Newmarket on December 11 that Rovers have played in the Ridgeons League, Premier Division.

Boss Peter Betts will put his players through their paces for the first time this week at a training session at Comberton Village College tonight. "We're travelling 25 minutes to do it but it will be good to use the full outdoor pitch at Comberton," he said. "It's been frustrating because the weather has prevented us from training and other facilities have been shut during the holidays." Betts plans to focus more on general fitness during the session with a match between the first team and reserves scheduled for Saturday. "That should help the players with

sharpness," he said. However, skipper Marcus Hunt is unavailable for Monday's game, but Betts said: "It's a blow, but we've got a big squad so we should be

>> Basketball

Maclean's mission



CAROLINE Maclean heads into 2011 knowing that it could be the crucial year in earning a place in the Great Britain wheelchair basketball squad for the London 2012 Paralympics.

The 35-year-old Haverhill-based player is one of the senior faces in the British squad, and has her heart set on reaching her fourth Paralympics, after going to Sydney, Athens

and Beijing.

The squad recently had their first training camp since the world championships in July, when Great Britain were sixth – their highest finish at the event.

"It's all been going great," said Maclean. "We had the world championships this year. We're ranked two places higher at sixth now so we're aiming for a medal at London." at London.

'The people to beat are USA and Germany. We played USA in Athens and they thrashed us (74-24), but the last time (we played them) it was only by six points (the USA won).

'We could beat anyone, it depends on the day."

It is the year of the European championships in Israel, and a top-three finish would normally guarantee a place at the Paralympics. However, as hosts, Great Britain are assured a place at 2012.

But Maclean sees the year as being an important one to build on what they have done in 2010.

Maclean said: "I think it will probably take the pressure off a little bit. We do tend to step up because, with Sydney, Athens and Beijing, we have always got bronze to qualify.

'We definitely want a medal and

she originally became part of the Great Britain set-up at the European championships in 1995.

"It's totally different to my first tournament," said Maclean, who plays for Essex Outlaws, which means training in Maldon and playing in Chelmsford.

'There are seven of us with funding now and I'm one of them, so I've been able to go part-time

"When I first started there weren't many girls trialling, but now there are 40 or 50 in the country who would love to get in the team.

"You are striving to stay in the team and train every day. You have to train every day to keep the standard up.

"When I first started, no-one had really known about wheelchair basketball but now we get a lot of support.

"Because the Paralympics are in London, everyone wants to help and are a lot more aware of what we do.'

Caroline ready to Maclean is the longest-serving member of the squad, and things have moved on quite a bit from bid for a 2012 place



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